The LOGGER'S
BARK
1916 - RADIO CLUB of TACOMA - 2018

SEPTEMBER, 2018 VOLUME 15, ISSUE 09 @Radio Club of Tacoma

The Mystery of the Unknown Clubhouse: Stumbling upon some details of the RCT distant past

It often amazes me how a simple search for one thing can lead to other things being found that were never expected nor imagined to be found. This process is often called serendipity: the occurrence and development of events by chance in a happy or beneficial way. Most often, in this modern era of web pages, hyperlinks, and Google searches, serendipity is arrived at simply by stumbling upon a page link that was unexpected, leading to a path of unknown discovery.

Such an event occurred for me about a week ago. As President of The Radio Club of Tacoma, working with various club officers and members, I've been helping plan the upcoming birthday celebration for Worth Gurley, W7WG, who will turn 100 years old on September 18th, 2018, with our club celebrating his momentous day on September 30th. This date also marks the 83rd anniversary of Worth becoming an amateur radio operator back in 1935, and his continuous participation in our hobby all these years.

Simultaneous to our preparations, the president of the Quarter Century Wireless Club (www.qcwa.org) Ken Oelke, VE6AFO contacted RCT and reached out to offer a special recognition of Worth's 80-plus years as a ham. This contact then evolved into a dialog, bringing others into the discussion.

Out of the blue came an email from Pete Varounis, NL7XM of Easton, Pennsylvania. It turns out that Pete is probably the most prolific Radio Amateur callsign historian the hobby has ever seen. Pete has long worked with TV producer John Amodeo, NN6JA assigning custom callsigns to cast members of Tim Allen's ABC comedy show, Last Man Standing, in a quiet effort to honor vintage callsigns, as well as the QCWA on the stage set.

From his vast collection of QSL cards dating back to the beginning of amateur radio, Pete has sent us a very high resolution scan of a W7DK QSL card that no one in modern RCT history has likely seen, with a clubhouse address equally lost to the sands of time.

Please refer to the image below, showing the "business side" of this great old QSL card. The first thing you'll note is the call sign is not W7DK, but ra-

The President's Corner

Dave W7UUU

Contents

Pg. 1 - 4	President's Corner
Pg. 5 - 7	Salmon Run by KR7W
Pg. 8	Wolf River Antenna
Pg. 9	ARRL report
Pg. 9	Salmon Run, quick look
Pg. 10	ARES
Pg. 11	Nevada QSO Party
Pg. 12	PMT Sales Listings
Pg. 13	Worth's Birthday Party
Pg. 14 - 15	Combating Noise
Pg. 15	Mike Ritz W7VO
Pg. 16	Mark Tharp KB7HDX
Pg. 17	Horace Hamby III N7DRW
Pg. 18 - 19	This and That
Pg. 20	General Mtg. minutes
Pg. 22	Board Mtg. minutes
Pg. 24	Staff

Thanks to all whose contributions make this the great newsletter it is.

Help us celebrate Worth's 100th BIRTHDAY by attending the Birthday Party at the clubhouse on Sunday, Sept. 30, 1:00pm to 3:00pm

See page 13.

ther 7DK. Prior to the mid-1920s, amateur radio callsigns lacked a "W" or "K" prefix, but rather just sported the district and the suffix. 7DK was the callsign of one of our founders, of course, Edward Drake who around that time was club President. The FCC adopted the now-familiar "W" and "K" prefixes (W was West of the Mississippi, K was to the East) but any already-licensed amateur automatically transferred over to the new system. Thus, 7DK became W7DK as we know it today.

I find it interesting that, compared to modern logbook recording, there is no frequency band mentioned (much less actual frequency) because we're talking about the spark era when all signals were more or less "200 meters" (1.49 MHz). And while there is a date indicated for the QSO, (February 6, 1926 or possibly June 2nd, 1926 depending on which date convention they were following), there is no *time*! The only indication of something approaching time is the notation of "AM", so just "in the morning of this day"

Other interesting things to note in the QSL card image: Look at the somewhat odd "Q-Code" references. The meaning of a number of such Q-codes, or "amateur radio Morse Code abbreviations", has changed over time, with many of those changes happening in the years that followed spark, namely the 1930s. The QRK rating of "R4" would equate to signal strength, on a scale back then of 5 as opposed to todays "RST" using S to denote strength from zero to nine. So roughly speaking, 7DK received an S8 or so by today's standards.

Below that is the seemingly odd use of the Q-Code "QSB". Today, we think of QSB as denoting signal fading due to propagation. However, during the years of Spark Gap transmission of Morse, QSB stood for "Is my spark bad?" or "your spark is bad". More clearly, QSB would be an indication of the receiving operator's interpretation of your spark signal as he heard it. In this case, the receiving station (9BAF in St. Louis) reported that 7DK was exhibiting either "Raw AC" or "Rectified AC" with the designation of RAC (history uses both definitions); meaning that the signal was *clearly* reflecting a 60-cycle AC buzz rather than anything approaching a pure tone.

The next historical novelty is the reference, "Gateway to Mt. Tacoma". Mt. Rainier was given its name by Captain George Vancouver in honor of his Rear Admiral Peter Rainier. Lewis and Clark, not knowing the proper spelling, just winged it phonetically with "Mt. Regniere" around 1806 or so. Both references are easy to find.

But along comes an obscure author (who by no accounts I have found, ever even traveled to this area), one Theodore Winthrop, who in 1862 published a travel book called "The Canoe and the Saddle" in which he re-

ferred to Mt. Rainier as Mt. Tacoma. One source Winthrop may have based this error upon references a local Native American dialect word of "Ta" meaning larger, combined with "Koma", a Native name for Mt. Baker, which when put together means roughly: Mount Ta Koma is bigger than Mt. Baker (which it certainly is!). No question that for some time, this informal name stuck despite no official assignment ever being granted.

Either way, for the locals of Tacoma and vicinity, the unofficial name stuck. This despite the US Government formally recognizing the name Mt. Rainier, as adopted in 1890 by the US Board of Geographic names. Folks around here referred to Mt. Tacoma all the way into the 1940s, and some even beyond. My own grandfather called it that when I was a boy in the 1960s. So it's no surprise that the 7DK members insisted this was still very much the Gateway to Mt. Tacoma, and chose to print that right on their QSL card as a point of local pride.

Lastly and most significantly, note the club address: 917 ½ S. Sheridan Ave. This was a new one for most of us! During earlier club research (by Al N7OMS and others, over ten years ago) a fair number of meeting places for Radio Club of Tacoma were investigated – many of them now mere parking lots or sites of later construction. But 917 ½ S. Sheridan, as listed on this QSL card, still very much exists and carries some interesting historical connections!

I recently drove by the location, taking photos of the front and rear of the building. I was hoping to associate one side or another to the very well-known photograph of our founders, taken in 1916 (see the image below of the "four dapper gentlemen in ties" as I like to refer to them!). Alas, that photo could not have been from the house on Sheridan. In fact, the earlier research concluded the location was likely a local business back-office sort of area that is, of course, long gone.

The truly odd connection to this Sheridan home location is that at the time of this QSL card, it was owned by an individual not yet a ham: Charles Aufang of Tacoma, and later Lacey, Washington. From what I can surmise, Charles was interested in amateur radio, got to know folks at the local club, and learned the members needed a place to operate. So he designated his upper floor as a "1/2" address for mailing purposes and allowed them to operate there during the years of the mid-1920s. Whether for rent or out of friendship, we'll likely never know. But regardless, this was an important location in the early years of our club and was printed on their QSL cards at the time.

Aufang himself became a ham in the 1930s, long after moving out of the South Sheridan house, and achieving his own callsign of W7BMG. Many of our older members should immediately clue in on that callsign!

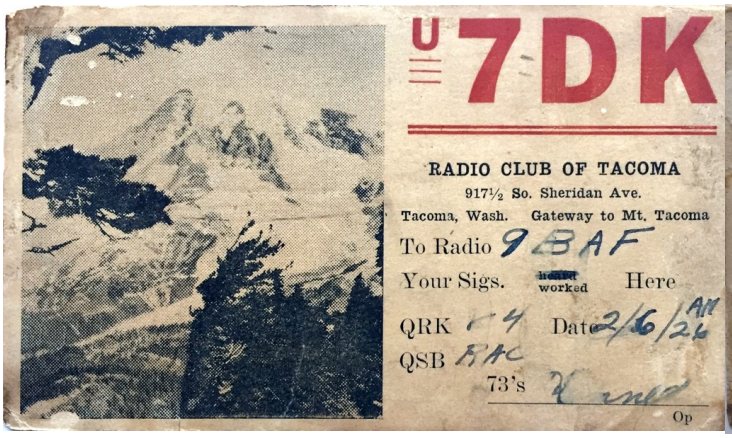
In 1958, Radio Club of Tacoma member Alan Hughes, KB7SVU (SK) managed to obtain the callsign W7BMG and have the FCC assigns it to his newly-founded club, Emergency Communications Club of Tacoma. Note that there was no callsign "vanity program" back then. To adopt an expired callsign or to take on a call that otherwise fit your initials or some other twist on the letters involved, required an inside connection to the FCC. Alan Hughes, I have learned in my many conversations regarding this issue, in fact had quite a few FCC-connected channels he could have well used to adopt the callsign of W7BMG.

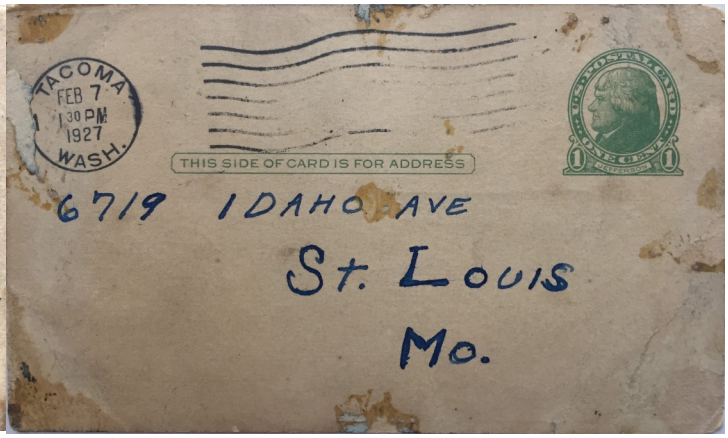
Think of it this way: to that era of RCT membership, Charles Aufang, W7BMG, very likely was akin to how we currently view Dr. Clifford J. Spike, W7OS – "Doc Spike". Charles was right there near the very beginning, even before he himself was a ham, sharing part of his home on South Sheridan Avenue for the uses of our nascent 7DK club all those years ago; back when the very QSL card that started this whole thing was mailed to amateur station 9BAF in St. Louis, Missouri.

Alan Hughes, KB7SVU, operating W7BMG Emergency Communications, became a legend over many years, outfitting at least three former city busses for amateur radio EMCOMM purposes long before it was a "go bag" sort of thing like it is today.

I welcome any and all anecdotes, additions, corrections or other relevant factoids to expand upon this story. This is a very living part of our club's 100+ year history and one I'm proud and honored to be a part of helping to uncover. If you're in the Tacoma area, I highly encourage you to take a drive past 917 So. Sheridan and make your own connection to a very early period for our club.

Have a great month, Dave W7UUU





Read the President's Comments above for an explanation of these photographs and QSL Card

On The Road Again—2018 Salmon Run Expedition Operations

By Willie Nelson or Rich KR7W - take your pick

Again RCT members Chuck AC7QN and Rich KR7W hit the road to operate ***WW7LW*** - The Wireless Giant of Eastern WA- from the lower right part of our great state of WA.

On Friday 9/14 we drove 356 miles via I-82 to Chief Timothy Park, about 9 miles west of Clarkston, to tent camp.

Saturday morning we headed 4 miles west on Highway 12 to the Asotin-Garfield county line and were set up before the 0900 start time. A little more than 2 hours were spent at ASO-GAR and we made 86 total QSOs. W7DK was our first contact.

After ASO-GAR we drove about 40 miles on Hiway 127 to Whitman County, on the north side of the Snake River to an abandoned Corps of Engineers camping park. We set up in a paved turnaround area just before the parks locked gates. On the air at 1300 PDT– which turned out to be a poor time of day for 75 Meters. We made 25 QSOs in about an hour– then it dried up. So we moved on.

After WHIT county we checked into the KOA campground at Lyons Ferry, a couple of miles north of (don't blink) Starbuck. After our tents were put up to establish our camp site– we drove 2 miles west on Lyons Ferry Rd towards Walla Walla. There is a gravel road turn off that heads to wheat fields. It just so happens that about 1/4 mile of this road is the Walla Walla-Columbia County Line. We set up in a small area on the printed side of the No Trespassing signs along the fence line. We were on 75M SSB at 1645 PDT where we were met with huge pile-ups of stations calling us. 140 SSB and 48 CW QSOs were made in 3 1/2 hours. We disassembled the antenna and put away the station in the dark.

On Sunday 9/16 we were set up at 0930 at our COL-WALLA wheat field QTH. QSOs seemed sparse. At aprox 1045 AM, Pat WT7N operating the mighty W7DK answered our CQ and asked (she later said she was joking) if we would travel to Skamania and Ferry Counties– cuz that's what the club needed for a 'Clean Sweep'. I remarked that those counties are on opposite sides of the state and it'd take more than two hours to get to the closest county– which is Ferry. We continued to call CQ with no answers.

Just after the sun went down over the horizon– here's Chuck AC7QN allowing the PC to call "CQ from Walla Walla and Columbia Counties".

With Chuck AC7QN controlling the radio I got out the Garmin Car GPS and plotted a route to Ferry County. I told Chuck that it is 120

miles and 2 hours and 37 minutes to get there. I also said I am 60/40 that I want to go. Chuck was 50/50. I sent DK's Salmon Run Commander Al, N7OMS a text message that we were heading to Ferry. [Note: No signal bars on my phone… but somehow texting was possible].

The route to Ferry County was a familiar one for Chuck and I. It's the same way we went last year to the Lincoln-Adams County Line wheat field we spent 5 hours in. When we got to I-90 I stopped and sent text to Al N7OMS to let him know we were 75 miles away from Ferry county line. The following places we stopped to send and check for text messages from Al N7OMS had no cell phone connectivity.

The south side of Ferry County boarders Lake Roosevelt– a wide body of water. The only place to cross is the San Poil Ferry, run by WA State Ferries for the Federal Government. It's sort of like going to Vashon Island– if you miss the boat then ya gotta wait 90+ minutes. In our case– we waited about 15 minutes.

On the north side of Lake Roosevelt, up the hill, is a recreational turn out– where Chuck and I have operated in previous Salmon Runs. We drove out into the sage brush and set up camp.

Once the station was set up the first thing I did was to find W7DK calling CQ. At 1440 PDT– I answered W7DK's CQ and gave them "Five Nine Ferry County". When Al transmitted his acknowledgement… Chuck and I could hear the cheering from members in the radio room– as W7DK had just achieved the coveted Worked All WA Counties– aka ***Clean Sweep***. After finishing with DK, I QRZ'ed and was met with a huge amount of hams pouncing. I worked about 10 more stations and Chuck took over. At FER county we made 69 QSOs in 1 hour and 29 minutes.

About 15 minutes to go– on the ferry to Ferry County. Blow photo up

At 1600 PDT a rain squall showed up. I tucked the radios inside the back of the car and we sat it out for about 15 minutes. After that we heard a S-9+ electrical noise level from the radio which drowned out most signals. The rain must have shorted something out down the hill at the ferry terminal. It's now time to put the station away and head home.

Epilog: Once again we had fun roving and giving out QSOs from rare counties to the hams looking to achieve the coveted clean sweep. We were both glad we went to Ferry

County as two other stations mentioned that their contact with us gained them the Clean Sweep. Many hams we QSO'd with took the time to let us know that they were appreciative of our roving efforts– which is very rewarding for us.

The Go Box Station (photo below)**:**

Radio: Elecraft KX3 with KX3PA 100 Watt Linear Amp with integrated Antenna Tuner.

Power Supply: Hacked MFJ Mighty Might 25 A Switcher connected to Power Pole panel.

Acme Built Interface Box has 4 audio amplifiers with volume controls for 2 headphone jacks, SSB Speaker and CW Speaker. It also includes the PC to Radio interface for computer controlled Push to Talk and CQ audio.

Ferry County QTH on bluff above Lake Roosevelt in Colville Indian Nation.

Antenna: Full length Inverted Vee Fan Dipole for 80, 40, and 20 Meters. Made from light weight wire. 50 ft. coax jumper connected to choke Balun in center. It is supported by 11 ft pipe and 23 ft fiberglass pole (like Jackite)- held in place with under car wheel pipe mount gizmo.

No rattlesnakes or ticks were encountered.

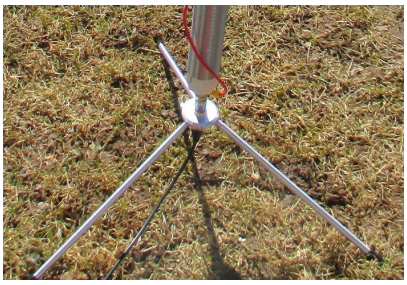
Thanks for reading this far. 73 Rich KR7W

Antenna Product Review - Wolf River Coils Silver Bullet 1000 TIA

Several months ago I was catching up on postings in one of the QRP forums and I came across a post listing a portable coil loaded vertical antenna. I had been interested in getting such an antenna ever since I had seen one being used to good effect at the Radio Club of Tacoma's 2017 picnic. The deal was struck and I soon had the antenna in hand; a Wolf River Coils Silver Bullet 1000 TIA (*Take It Along)*. The antenna had been originally purchased as a complete assembly rather than as separate pieces (which are available) and included the tri-pod base and legs, the telescoping vertical element, and three 33' radials. I set the antenna up in my side yard about 3 feet AGL and ran SWR tests using an MFJ259 analyzer. I was able to bring it to less than 1.7: 1 from 1.5 MHz to 30 MHz with no problem. Keeping in mind it is a compromise one quarter wave antenna it preformed very well. I then hooked it up to my KX3 w/ATU and again it worked well for a portable antenna.

Check out the Wolf River Coils website for the latest prices. https://youtu.be/eQwELNkzqyQ

Above left; Silver Bullet 1000 coil. Right; Complete kit. Far Right and below; Examples of various setups and the tripod base.



A WORD FROM THE ARRL

By Joe Lester, K7ZG

In August the ARRL Board approved the contract with its new CEO, Dr. Howard E. Michel, WB2ITX, effective October 15, 2018. The Board action followed a presentation by the ARRL's Treasurer, and a motion seconded by our retiring Northwestern division director Jim Pace. A proposal by Pacific Division director Jim Tiemstra to postpone consideration of the motion until November 29 failed, and the CEO's contract was approved by vote of 9 to 6. Incidentally, four of the five incumbents up for election this year voted in favor. The other ARRL directors voting against the new CEO's contract were from the Atlantic, New England, Pacific, Southeastern, Southwestern, and West Gulf divisions. No news regarding the Amateur Radio Parity Act, which would have paved the way for negotiated approvals of outdoor antennas in neighborhoods nationwide governed by Homeowners Associations ... except that due to the opposition of one key Senator in Florida, the ARPA bill appears unlikely to pass the current session of Congress. On a related note, Fred Hopengarten, author and legal expert on antenna restrictions and zoning, is a candidate for a New England division director. In our area, club members in Tacoma and other cities and counties not affected by HOA's can continue to look to the current rules (PRB-1) for guidance. However, at the moment, there are no published regulatory standards for determining approval of aesthetics-friendly outdoor amateur radio antennas in HOA communities. Hopefully the ARRL will continue to work to help radio amateurs overcome obstacles in obtaining approvals of effective outdoor antennas.

Our club's affiliation with the ARRL extends back to 1920. In order to retain our status as an ARRL Special Service Club, we need at least 51% ARRL membership. If you'd like to join the ARRL, that would be great. You can do so online on the website arrl.org.

Salmon Run 2018 – An early first look

This is an unofficial report on W7DK results on Salmon Run.
We contacted 39 counties (clean sweep). I don't know our score. The last county was Ferry which Rich KR7W and Chuck AC7QN activated at 3:00 pm with the contest ending at 4:00 pm. Close They made a special run to go there including a ferry ride. You should have heard the pileup after we (W7DK) cleared. Wow! There was no one else in Ferry county. Another stinker was Skamania which we contacted around 1:00 pm.
We also almost got a WAS with only 2 states to contact. Delaware and Idaho were the last ones. I hope this info is helpful.

Jim Hatfield
K7SSS@aol.com

Editors Note: Too bad about Idaho. I heard several ID stations from my QTH on Saturday afternoon about 3:30 or 4:00PM.

Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES)

Western Washington Section
District 5, Pierce County ARES
www.PierceCountyARES.net

Greetings,

ARES articles provide information about amateur radio emergency communications, and Pierce County District 5 ARES activities and events. Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES) is an ARRL organization dedicated to Amateur Radio Emergency Communication through skill and preparedness

When You Need Amateur Radio, You Really Need It!

The Background…

Pierce County ARES manages local ARES activity, training, exercises, and skill development. Pierce County ARES supports and meets at the Pierce County Emergency Operations Center.

ARES activities:

Washington State and ARES District Quarterly Exercise: The next quarterly emergency training exercise will be conducted Saturday September 29th and will run most of the morning. This particular exercise will feature and promote ARES team developed objectives and tasks derived from any of the multiple emergency hazards that our area is at risk for. For example, The South Pearce and Roy area teams will be working against a scenario of earthquake, Nisqually River flooding and a Hazardous Materials Train derailment. Exercise Simulated traffic will include voice and digital situation and spot reports as the exercise develops. You can find information on the bands and frequencies for this exercise at the Pierce County ARES website, listed above and below.

ARRL Annual Simulated Exercise Test (SET) coming in October

ARES will be participating in the ARRL, Western Washington Section, annual emergency communications exercise on October 6th.

Coming Events/Training:

(Unless otherwise indicated location is Pierce County Emergency Operations Center)

The **18 October** general membership meeting program will address **EmComm Power, Generators, Batteries and Solar sources.**

27 October, Saturday morning 9 to Noon presentation will be an ARES **New Member Orientation / Concept of Operations**. (You do not need to be a "new" member, or even a registered Member of ARES to attend these sessions). Join us at the Pierce County Department of Emergency Management at the Emergency Operations Center.

ARES Meetings

Pierce County ARES Meets Monthly, at 7 pm on the Third Thursday at the Pierce County Emergency Operations Center. Meetings always have a program, normally an EmComm Training Focus.

Pierce County District 5 Website: http://www.piercecountyares.net/web
ARES Membership Application: http://www.piercecountyares.net/web/application
ARES Facebook Page: https://www.facebook.com/groups/PierceCountyARES/files/
Washington State Emergency Management: https://www.facebook.com/WashEMD/

ARES report continued on page 17.

The New Improved Nevada QSO Party in October!

The Sierra Nevada Amateur Radio Society is proud to present the Nevada QSO Party which will be an annual event on the second full weekend in October. This year it will start at 2000 hours Nevada time (PDST) on Friday, October 12 (0300z 10/13/2018) and run until 1400 on Sunday, October 14 (2100z 10/14/2017)

The objective of this contest is to activate and work all 17 of the counties in Nevada. Nevada stations will work anyone, anywhere, and out of state stations will work Nevada Stations. All stations may be worked on the three different modes for up to three times on each HF band and only once on the VHF+ frequencies. Rovers in Nevada can be worked again when they change counties.

The state of Nevada is one of the rarest U.S. States on the air. Be sure to work Nevada in the upcoming Nevada QSO Party; it will be helpful when going for ARRL WAS (Worked All States award) and other awards like grid zones and counties.

The VHF+ band will consist of all legal frequencies from 50 MHz up to 1300 MHz. In order to bring a lot of new hams into contesting, we are allowing the use of repeaters on these frequencies. There are linked systems which will allow out of state contacts. All modes will be allowed with the exception of the WSJT modes.

On the HF side, Phone, CW, and Digital modes will add multipliers to the QSO points. All conversational digital text modes are allowed with all counting the same. Currently, the WSJT modes do not have a contest exchange message that is handled as a valid regular message, so those modes are not allowed. (This may be changed if this is added to the WSJT program in the future)

Logging software from N1MM will have the ability to work on this contest. For those that are using paper and pencil or some other logging method that does not produce a Cabrillo file, we also have the WA7BNM Cabrillo log maker which will allow you to build a Cabrillo file. All entries over 10 contacts must submit an electronic Cabrillo log.

We also have a sign-up form to allow stations to sign up for the counties which they will activate and what modes they will be using. We are going to try and get operators out in all counties and have all modes covered. Please use this form if you are going to be operating in Nevada.

The Nevada QSO Party website is http://nvqso.com/ Complete rules are listed under the “Rules” tab and please read the FAQs for additional information.
Information is subject to change on the website so be sure to check back regularly. Please visit this site often and pass the word onto your friends!

We are looking forward to your participation in this contest!

For further information on this news release, contact Jim Shepherd at W6US@SNARS.ORG

RCT SUMMER SALE JULY -SEPT 2018

		PRICE	RCT #
1.	Millen Grid Dip Osc.	$150.00	3819
2.	Tube Tester Meter	$ 10.00	
3.	Meter Tube Tester Jewel	$ 10.00	
4.	Heath Clock GS-1000	$ 150.00	3706
6.	Hallicrafter S-38A Receiver	$ 30.00	3821
7.	ICOM 440 mobile XCVR IC-410	$ 50.00	3519
11.	Kenwood HF XCVR TS-450	$ 300.00	3389
12.	MFJ Ant Tuner MFJ-986	$ 200.00	3825
14.	W2THY Memory Keyer	$ 20.00	3759
15.	Gonset 6 MTR XCVR COMM 3	$ 40.00	3637
16.	Gonset HF SSB TX GSB-100	$ 100.00	3866
18.	Yaesu HF PWR AMP FT-2100B	$ 400.00	3827
20.	ICOM HF XCVR IC-725	$ 200.00	3810
21.	Dentron Super tuner	$ 75.00	3646
22.	wooden speaker	$ 10.00	
24.	Kenwood Microphone MC-80	$ 60.00	3393
25.	Kenwood XTAL Filter YG-455C-1	$ 75.00	3844
27.	Battery Charger AT-5000	$ 30.00	3778
28.	Heathkit Audio Generator IG-5218	$ 25.00	
29.	Shure Microphone	$ 30.00	3363
31.	Hygain Rotor Control	$ 75.00	3869
32.	ICOM HF XCVR IC-730	$ 200.00	3845
33.	ICOM Power Supply IC-P515 P/O 32	$ 75.00	3846
35.	EICO HF XCVR 753/ with PS	$ 100.00	3867
38.	ICOM UHF ALL MODE XCVR IC-471A RX OK, TX-0	$ 150.00	3830
41.	Suitcase with Tektronix scope camera	$ 100.00	
42.	Tekronix Oscilloscope 422	$ 50.00	3849
43.	Tekronix Oscilloscope 547	$ 50.00	3850
44.	HP VHF Signal Generator 608E	$ 50.00	3851
47.	Kenwood HF XCVR TS-520SE	$ 250.00	3853
48.	Yaesu HF XCVR FT-101E -5 items	$ 300.00	3854
49.	Yaesu VFO for FT-101 p/o 48		3855
50.	Yaesu 6 mtr transverter p/o 48		3856
51.	Yaesu phone patch p/o 48		3857
52.	Spectronics Digital Display DD-1 p/o 48		3858
53.	Drake XCVR TR-4	$ 225.00	3859
54.	Drake power Supply AC-3 p/o 53		3860
55.	Webster HF Band Spanner Ant	$ 75.00	

Missing line numbers—items are sold.

To inspect or purchase one of these items please contact a member of the Property Management Team or one of the club's officers.

Pictured on left is a 5 piece Yaesu station – items 48 to 52 on the sale list for $300.00 for all. Pictured on right is a Yaesu HF AMP (1200wt, 572B x2)– item 18. The amp will be sold for $300.00 if purchased with items 48 through 52. The sale list is posted on the main bulletin board in the clubhouse kitchen. The list is updated on Saturday as necessary to delete sold items. Remember that our prices are flexible to club members. Make us a reasonable offer and the PMT may change the price. Thank you to those that have purchased club items. PMT members are available every Saturday – 9:30 to noon - to show and sell equipment. 73
Red Cranefield WB7EC

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

This month marks the birthday of one of the Radio Club of Tacoma's most esteemed members,

J Worth Gurley W7WG

Worth will celebrate his 100th birthday on September 18, 2018

The Radio Club of Tacoma will host an Open House Birthday Party

September 30, Sunday—1:00PM to 3:00PM at the Clubhouse

Worth Gurley W7WG has been an active Amateur Radio Operator for 83 of his 100 years.

Worth regularly visits the clubhouse and regales his ever-present audience with tales of the 'old days'.

We hope you will join us to meet and visit with Worth on this special day.

Left: Enjoying a pastry at the Saturday Open House

For a bio of Worth's many accomplishments see his QRZ.com entry.

Right: To see Worth make a few contacts. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yLieJZXeIk&feature=youtu.be

Combating HF Noise: what works?

By Richard G3CWI

Last year I bought a motorhome. It's been a great way to get about and has provided welcome accommodation at rallies. One thing that struck me when we started using it was just how much rubbish we generate in our day to day life. Everything we buy seems to have multiple layers of packaging and it's all the more obvious in a motorhome. Clearly this has an environmental impact and, the mantra of reduce, reuse, recycle neatly summarizes a hierarchy for environmental impact reduction. As we will see, a similar hierarchy applies for noise reduction.

For effective combating of noise, your first action should be to eliminate the noise source or sources wherever possible. It's often surprising how much noise can come from your own property. When our children moved out earlier this year, the noise floor on the HF bands dropped significantly which I suspect was due to the removal of various low quality electronics devices that were left permanently plugged in and switched on. When you face noise problems, a good test is to rig up a battery powered radio receiver and then cut off all power to your own house at the main breaker to see if the noise level is reduced. If the noise level drops you can unplug everything, switch on the mains supply at the breaker and start plugging things in to see what is causing the noise. It is worth mentioning that home solar power systems have often been associated with high levels of HF noise. This leads us to the first of our "three Rs"; attempting to REMOVE the noise source should always be your first course of action.

If removing the noise source is not practical there are various techniques that can be used to improve matters. The use of balanced antenna systems (with baluns and common-mode chokes where required) can often be helpful to stop noise getting into your radio system. Common-mode chokes such as ferrite rings can also be used on the power leads of electrically noisy devices to reduce their tendency to radiate noise.

A co-ax fed dipole with a balun should have a deep null off the ends which can be oriented to reduce noise pick-up. Use of a directional antenna can be helpful if the noise source comes from one direction. In this respect, properly made, "Moxon rectangle" antennas are particularly effective. Although they have modest gain they can have an excellent deep null off the back - which in a noisy environment makes them sound much "gainier" than they actually are. It can also be helpful to move your antenna as far from a local noise source as possible.

A less-used, but potentially very effective technique for noise reduction, is "noise cancelling". There are various commercial products that do this. They rely of having two antennas; one designed to pick up as much local noise as possible and the other being your normal HF antenna. The noise canceller allows adjustment of the phase and amplitude of the noise and adds it to the main antenna. If done carefully, the noise cancels out leaving a nice clear band! Noise cancellers can work really well but there are a few things to be aware of:

** they only work over a small band of frequencies and will need adjusting frequently;*
** actually getting the adjustment correct can be very challenging - expect to spend some hours getting it working correctly;*

* *they work best for single sources of noise - they can give poor results with distributed noise sources.*

These techniques give rise to our second "R"; if we cannot remove the noise we should aim to REDUCE it.

If all these techniques have failed there are other methods that can be tried but they are seldom as effective. The use of digital signal processing in modern radios usually means that some sort of noise reduction algorithm is available. These have improved over the decades and can make a modest improvement to the signal to noise ratio. If used on SSB they can lead to a rather metallic sounding received audio at high levels of processing. For narrowband modes such as CW, reducing the bandwidth of the radio can help but be aware that this is not required for modes such as FT8 where the computer does all the audio processing. These techniques fall into a category that I have called reprocessing - giving us our final "R" REPROCESS.

So our noise hierarchy is complete. We should aim to: REMOVE, REDUCE, REPROCESS (in that order).

The following campaign statements are in response to my request for their presentations.

They are presented here in the order that they were received.

Mike Ritz W7VO—Candidate for ARRL NW Division Director

The ARRL and the Northwestern Division are at a crossroads. Recently our League has been plagued with controversy, member discontent, transparency questions, and the resignation of its CEO. Members feel they have lost their voice. This strife makes it difficult for the ARRL to do the work necessary to realize the goals of its aggressive strategic plan, and creates an atmosphere of distrust.
Change is needed — your voice needs to count! We need to get the ARRL and our Division back to where member input is valued, ensure transparency and accountability, and bring back trust.
I'm running for Director to help solve these problems, and get our League focused on the important work ahead to ensure a bright future for amateur radio.
What I bring:
Leadership- Recently retired from Director level management in high technology, where I focused on collaboration, strategic partnerships, and generating/executing successful business plans that promoted BOTH revenue growth and customer satisfaction. I can get the job done!

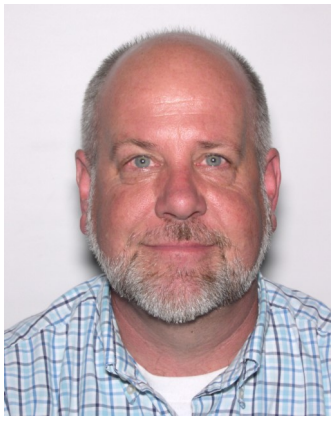
Commitment- ARRL Life Member, very active amateur, and *on the air*. Committed to bringing this high energy and passion to the Board, as your advocate.

Mentoring and Education- I focus on mentoring at my own station. ARRL Registered Trainer, Accredited Volunteer Examiner, author, and seminar speaker on amateur radio subjects.

Public Service- Served as ARES Emergency Coordinator (EC), and currently a Deputy EC.
Recently authored training modules for Oregon's ARES Amateur Radio Operator (ARO) certification program.

More? My website: www.w7vo.com/election.html
Please make your voice heard, and VOTE!

Mark J. Tharp KB7HDX—Candidate for ARRL NW Division Vice Director



I've served as Eastern Washington Section Manager the past 15 years and in other appointments since 1993. Working with many former Directors and Vice Directors during those 25 years, I'm well aware of the roles, duties, and responsibilities of Vice Director.

Supporting the league is very important. It's the only real advocate for preservation of our spectrum and in turn, continuance of this hobby we all love. Serving as Vice Director, if I am fortunate enough to win, is another way I can give back to the amateur community. I believe my time as Section Manager and other appointments is a view some on the board have never experienced.

Over the years I've been fortunate to attend many conventions, meetings, and hamfests. Having served in various ARRL appointed positions I've had conversations with members and non-members alike. I listen to what they are saying, engage them in dialogue, and have worked with them to help solve the issue at hand, or, provide direction to ARRL staff to resolve the matter. During this time, I've met and made friends with folks from all across the division and in just about every aspect of Ham Radio, including many existing ARRL staff. In return for those friendships, I would like the opportunity to represent you on the ARRL board.

Your vote is important. Your voice is important. With your support, I will do all I can to bring the views of the Northwest Division to the Board.

very 73

Mark J. Tharp, KB7HDX

Salmon Run – 2018 The Clubhouse perspective by Randy WB4SPB

Success! Radio Club of Tacoma obtained a clean sweep this year, finally securing that 39th, desperately-sought county when the expeditionary force WW7LW (club members Chuck AC7QN and Rich KR7W) sprinted 120 miles to activate Ferry County, the rarest of the year. It is rumored that a legendary pileup ensued, since everyone and his sister was also looking for that one.

W7DK made 688 QSOs, worked 95 multipliers (including 5 DX entities) and contacted "the big fish" W7DX on two modes (1000 bonus points). Our claimed score is 148,060. This is an improvement over last year, when we made 512 QSOs and scored 102,426.

Operators were Bob KF7GPO, Mike W7XTZ, Gary WG7X, Mike W7MKE, Al N7OMS, Pat WT7N, Adam W2NCC, Randy WB4SPB, and Warren NG7G. As usual, we made the majority of our contacts on 20M, but 75M was the source of most of our county multipliers.

We worked the WW7LW expedition six times (different counties, bands and modes). We worked Darryl WW7D, a rover station, *sixteen* times.

Thanks to all who operated or supported the effort! Now that the contest is over, expect those pledge reminders in the mail real soon.

Sorry but we have no pictures taken around the clubhouse during the 'Run'; maybe next year!

Horace Hamby III, N7DRW - Candidate for ARRL NW Division Director

Radio Club of Tacoma—I am Running for Division Director. Thanks for doing such a good job with your club. I got my Extra via one of your test sessions. Thank You. Plus, I visited your club house and saw your Rig set up; Impressive.

Well, my message with the Division will be to: **Encourage ARRL Members to grow their skills and numbers and spread the enlarged positive Amateur image in the Section community** and look for ways within the community to **focus on Families and Youth**.

Let's maintain and build healthy ARRL RF Labs in the higher education areas to produce career ready Hams. Let's support clubs with active ARRL youth clubs in High School, churches, and advance learning centers producing youth that are hands on, experienced for their age, and Technically equipped at Extra license levels. This will maintain the ability of Amateur Radio to meet its commitments in the future.

I look forward to working with you, keeping ARRL members having fun and serving the community. Keep producing Hams and getting them on the air: Frequent tests and classes. Most of all keeping ARRL a strong "Watering Hole" for building member skills.

More discussion: https://horacehambyarrl.wordpress.com/ and QRZ https://qrz.com/

For you guys, in your location, a challenge: Set up a Student Lab at PLU and UPS. I will bet you could set them up a remote HF station!!!!

Your club most likely has an active Youth group? Well tell the Division about it. See you on the air.

Horace N7DRW

At press time only three of the six candidates *(see above)* had submitted campaign statements.

ARES report continued…

ARES Information and Communications Plan frequencies:

For ARES Team, EOC frequencies, and other ARES activities you may also use the following W7DK.org Web-site, using the following link:

http://www.w7dk.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=category&layout=blog&id=46&Itemid=111

Larry Watson, KD4VOM
Secretary, Pierce County ARES
Kd4vom@mailcan.com

This and That

Youth Ham Radio Learning

Radio Club of Tacoma will be supporting a BSA Scouting Camporee near Orting on October 19-21. About 120-150 scouts are expected. We expect to have a Jamboree On The Air (JOTA) HF station and (hopefully) additional youth hands-on-experience using radios. To make all this come to fruition, we will need a number of volunteer hams and the loan of 2M handhelds/portables, off-set attenuators, tape measure beams, pop-up tent(s)/portable shelters. So if you would be able to loan some equipment or would like to help on Sat. Oct 20, or on Sun. Oct 21, morning, please contact Steve AF7YD, *ASAP*, so we can plan accordingly. **stevedightman@kendra.com**, or 253 988-0878.

NOTE; you do not have to have scouting credentials to participate in this exercise.

This will be a great opportunity to introduce many young scouts to the lifetime fun Ham Radio offers. I look forward to hearing from you.

Learning or Refreshing Your CW?

This summer I started my journey to establish my CW competence. A long time ago I passed the code test at the FCC office for Amateur Advanced but didn't quite get to the 20WPM skill needed for Extra. Also, along the way in my career, I picked up an interest in the skills and application of directing one's own brain for increasing the likelihood for more effective outcomes*. So as I have been practicing CW, I have been paying particular attention as I try to establish new neuronal brain pathways in my own brain. I recognize copying CW involves a number separate skills, that in order to be effective, need to work together. For instance, when learning, copying to hand written paper is a different skill than copying by keyboard. To copy to one's own awareness/memory is yet another skill. Over time, one may want to develop all these skills.

For the past few months I've found a number other RCT members working on their CW skills, and chatting about their experience and resources they use. I would also like to learn from you, and your experience. I don't yet have any particular goal for all this attention into the brain training in learning CW, but perhaps something useful may fall out. So if you are developing your CW skills, I would like the opportunity to chat with you about what's working for you, and what struggles you may be having. One common theme I've picked up on so far, In spite of some of the CW learning challenges, we all seem to be having fun!

In future columns I hope to explore more details of my and your experience in our CW journey.

Access to Commercial Plumbing Supply House

For the RCT members who are DIYer's, we now have access to Ferguson a Plumbing-Waterworks-Industrial supplier, **https://www.ferguson.com** . Their primary Pierce County location is in Fife at 3517 Pacific Hwy E., Tacoma, WA 98424, (253) 922-9060. Their prices aren't necessarily less than, but I've found their plumbing depth of stock is hands down vastly superior to any of the big-box retail stores. And if they don't have the items needed in stock they have the ability to move items from their branches quickly.

You may pay by credit card or cash. The account is "RADIO CLUB OF TACOMA", and can be looked up using RCT's phone, 253 759-2040. *Always* use a Purchase Order number of your FCC Call Sign.

Home Depot

RCT now has a PRO account at Home Depot. This account does not come with a discount unless you are: 1.) ordering over ~ $1500 and asking the ProDesk for a bid, 2.) Buying paint, 20% off; 3.) buying bulk back of parts. To use the account, look up the account by using the RCT phone to look up, 253 759-2040, Radio Club

of Tacoma. Please tell the casher your job number which is always your call sign. Cash and Credit card apply. Perhaps if we collectively buy enough, we can negotiate a better deal.

Upcoming MFJ bulk purchase

HEADS UP: Sometime this Fall--Winter 2018, Adam, W2NCC will be organizing another bulk buy from MFJ.
WARNING: If you are late and miss deadlines, don't ask to participate. It takes a lot of time to manage all the details that go along with bulk purchase and asking to manage extra details because you are late is not cool. You've been warned. So now is the time to plan you next MFJ order and communicate that to Adam.
Note: Randy, WB4SPB and I will be posting to the logged-in, member benefits page our web site all the commercial accounts, sometime soon
That's This and That for now.
Hope you found this helpful. Topic Suggestions & Feedback Welcome.

73's, Steve AF7YD

* A resource on this topic is: The User's Manual For The Brain, Volumes I and II. Bob G. Bodenhamer. L. Michael Hall

Radio Club of Tacoma
General Meeting Minutes
August 4, 2018

Meeting called to order at 1335 PDT by President Dave W7UUU at **the Eagles Aerie #3 Hall**

Officers and Directors Present

President	Dave Ellison W7UUU
Vice President	Mike Mikuchonis W7XTZ
Secretary	Mike Finnie W7MWF
Treasurer	Steve Dightman AF7YD
Board	Red Cranefield WB7EC
Board	Paul Matney W7PFU

Pledge of Allegiance led by Dave W7UUU

Health and Welfare

Silent Keys and Illness – It was noted that the memorial service for Silent Key Casey Hicks WY7V will be held on September 22, 2018 at the Abundant Life Church beginning at 1:00 p. m.

Welcome and Self-Introductions

Guests - none present

New Calls – none announced

Self-introductions took place. There were 27 members present. A copy of the sign-in sheet is filed with these minutes.

Secretary's Report

Mike W7MWF reported receipt of the usual correspondence; utility bills, periodicals, bank statements, new and renewed memberships. Property tax Notice of Valuation – up 14.5%

Treasurer's Report

Steve AF7YD gave a financial overview and advised that a profit/loss statement for Field Day 2018 was available on request.

Committee / Activity Reports

Membership	George K7GRS reported that membership stands at 273.
Training	Tech License Training October 7/8 Extra-class license training by Dave N7HT Sept thru December
VE Report	John AC7WW provided a report of the July 10 testing session, a copy of which is filed with these minutes. The next VE Session will be held August 14
HF Operations	Al N7OMS gave a report on the current status of HF operations. He also advised regarding upcoming contests in which the club will have an opportunity to participate.
Repeater Ops	It was reported that the Bates 21 repeater audio is marginal. The repeater committee has been advised and troubleshooting is ongoing.

IT Report	There was no IT report this month. There have been no anomalies noticed.
Museum	No report
Facilities Mgmt	Members were advised that new gutters have been installed on the garage. A new walk-through door has been purchased. No intrusions by squirrels into the attic have been observed.
Prop Mgmt	Red WB7EC provided sales reports and donation status. Upcoming surplus items for sale will be made available soon. Receipts for July were$745 from sur plus sales and $63 from raffle.
4th Weds Activity Night -	Presentation Topic to be determined

New Business

Mike W7MWF reported on the nomination of Worth W7WG to be awarded Honorary Lifetime Membership in the club. The nomination was voted on by a show of hands of those present and was passed unanimously. W7MKE Mike awarded a collection of hats to President Dave so that he can always be appropriately dressed.

Unfinished Business and Announcements

- **September 30** – Happy Birthday Party to celebrate 100th birthday for Worth W7WG. To be held at the clubhouse from 1-3 p. m.
-The 2018 summer picnic will be held on **Sunday, August 26**, at Fort Steilacoom Park in Lake wood. This is right across Steilacoom Blvd. from Western State Hospital, our Field Day site.
- **August 31 thru September 23** - RCT booth at the Washington State Fair.
- **September 15 and 16** - Salmon Run (WA state QSO Party). Annual W7DK Fund Raising Pledge Drive.

Program

Carl K9LA the Central Division Vice Director gave a good presentation via Skype. He provided some ARRL news, gave an update on Solar Cycle 24, went over predictions for Cycle 25, reviewed propagation outlook for the next several years. He also gave an endorsement for the weak signal suitability of FT8. Carl reviewed vintage equipment and show air mobile experiences in his Cessna 170B.
Tuning and Traffic Dave W7UUU showed copies of radio news magazines from the late 1940s with margin notes by Howard Anthony. This subject will be the focus of a future presentation by Dave.

Door Prize A repeater Directory was won by Steve AF7YD
Raffle Prize An antenna handbook donated by the Library Committee was won by Gary WG7X.
Ajournment at 1500 PDT

Respectfully submitted by Mike W7MWF, RCT Secretary

**Notes regarding W7WG Honorary Membership resulting from BOD meeting for action at General Meeting.*

At the August 1 2018 meeting of the BOD, a nomination was submitted and sponsored by qualified club members Al N7OMS, Peter AD7EU and Doug AD7AV for Honorary Membership in the Radio Club of Tacoma to be awarded to Worth Gurley W7WG RCT #1025.

The Board reviewed the nomination, and whole-heartedly recommends that the club award Honorary Membership to Worth in recognition of his long life and decades of contributions to the amateur radio community, to the Radio Club of Tacoma, and to W7OS - The Doctor Clifford J. Spike Memorial Museum. This nomination will be submitted to the general membership at the next meeting, opened for discussion and a vote on this matter will be conducted.

Radio Club of Tacoma
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
August 1, 2018

Meeting called to order at 1900 PDT by President Dave W7UUU.

Officers and Directors Present

President	Dave Ellison W7UUU
Secretary	Mike Finnie W7MWF
Treasurer	Steve Dightman AF7YD
Board	Bruce Hanson WE7P
Board	Paul Matney W7PFU
Board	Adam Barbera W2NCC
Board	Red Cranefield WB7EC
Board	Phil Pia K7PIA

Quorum? A quorum was present. 15 members signed the attendance roster, a copy of which is filed with these minutes

Silent Key or Illness? None reported

Approval of Minutes of July 11, 2018 Board Meeting. The Secretary was absent. Phil K7PIA took the minutes and submitted to the Board for review. The minutes were approved as circulated.

Secretary's Report Mike W7MWF reported that the usual Correspondence was received: Subscriptions, utility bills, bank statements, dues renewals and new members. Property tax valuation increase 14.5%

Treasurer's Report Steve AD7YD provided a financial overview. Steve also reported on the costs and receipts related to the 2018 Field Day. A copy of his report is filed with these minutes.

Committee / Reports

Membership	George K7GRS reported that membership stands at 273. Al N7OMS, Peter AD7EU and Doug AD7AV submitted a written nomination to induct Worth Gurley W7WG as an honorary lifetime member. The Board discussed this nomination and unanimously voted to support and to submit to the General Membership for approval at the August 4th meeting.
Library	Doug AD7AV presented the semi-annual report of activities and condition of the Library and Archive/History committees. A copy of Doug's report is filed with these minutes.
Training	-Tech License Training suspended until October -VE Testing, next session August 14. - Extra license upgrade class planned to begin in September and run to December
Info Tech	No report was available. No anomalies in the IT infrastructure were

reported.

HF Operations Phil K7PIA reported that the HF stations are running at full capability. Ongoing maintenance of equipment is being performed as issues are identified. Al N7OMS provided an update on contest schedules and opportunities.

Repeater Ops It was reported that the Bates 21 repeater is still marginal to the southerly direction. The repeater committee has been notified and troubleshooting is in progress.

Facilities Mgmt -Garage bay door – Still seeking bids and best options
-Garage man-door - has been purchased and awaiting installation
-Alarm status and battery checks – will be reviewed after door install.

Property Mgmt Sales reports and future sales events were reported by Red WB7EC. Receipts for July were $745 from surplus equipment sales and $63 from raffle ticket sales. Efforts will continue to clean and reorganize the garage.

Museum It was reported that the museum continues to operate as usual with an assortment of ongoing projects in the works.

Weds Workshop Presentation Topic TBA

General Meeting Carl K9LA the Central Division Vice Director will be presenting via Skype. He will provide some ARRL news, give an update on Solar Cycle 24, go over predictions for Cycle 25, review propagation for the next several years (including some words about FT8), talk about vintage equipment and show air mobile experiences in his Cessna 170B

Unfinished Business

-Installation and equipping of Safety Center completed
-Recovery and disposition of 70 feet Rohn 25 tower stored at Larry KD4VOM QTH still pending
-Appoint additional member (s) to serve on committees in instances where a committee has only 1 participant. (Table until September meeting)
-Tower maintenance (Table until September meeting)
-Planning for W7WG 100th birthday celebration – It was suggested and later confirmed that the club will honor Worth's centenary birthday with a party at the clubhouse on September 30, 2018 from 1:00 until 3:00 p.m.

New Business None brought to the board

Activity Reports and Discussion Topics

-State Fair upcoming. Stephan AD7AB soliciting setup/teardown crews and booth hosts.
-Annual Picnic August 26 at Fort Steilacoom Park. Check the Bark for details and map.
-September 15 & 16 Salmon Run. George K7GRS and Mike W7MKE graciously agreed to again manage the fund-raising pledge drive logistics. Thanks guys!!!

Adjournment was at 2008 PDT.

Respectfully Submitted; Mike W7MWF RCT Secretary

The Club LINEUP

Club Officers

President: Dave Ellison, W7UUU - w7uuu@w7dk.org

Vice Pres: Mike Mikuchonis, W7XTZ - w7xtz@w7dk.org

Secretary: Mike Finnie, W7MWF - w7mwf@w7dk.org

Treasurer: Steve Dightman, AF7YD - af7yd@w7dk.org

5 Board Members

Bruce Hanson, WE7P - we7p@w7dk.org

Paul Matney, W7PFU - w7pfu@w7dk.org

Adam Barbera, W2NCC - w2ncc@w7dk.org

Red Cranefield, WB7EC - wb7ec@w7dk.org

Phil Pia, K7PIA - k7pia@w7dk.org

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Membership Info: FULL (licensed) and ASSOCIATE (non licensed) is $35 per calendar year. $30 for Licensed Seniors (65 and over). Licensed family members at same address pay $20 each for the first two and are free for the third, fourth, and so on. Full-time students, licensed or non licensed, up to age 25 are $20 per year. Note: fees are applicable for the calendar year: Jan to Dec. Lifetime membership is 20 times the yearly fee you are eligible for.. Lifetime memberships are calculated based on the FULL and ASSOCIATE rates.

www.w7dk.org - For the latest and most current information on events and activities, visit the Radio Club of Tacoma Website.

Radio Club Repeaters

Central Tacoma: 147.280 + PL=103.5

Crawford Mountain 147.380 + PL=103.5 (E of Olympia @ 1500 ft. ASL)

Central Tacoma: 440.625 + PL=103.5

North Tacoma: 145.21 – PL=141.3